New sites for oil drilling in Santipur

1406. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has discovered any new site for oil drilling at Santipur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) ONGC identified a new site at Santipur in West Bengal and spudded the well in October, 1994. Upto February, 1995 the well had reached a depth of 3200 m.

Acceleration of oil drilling programme

1407. SHRI T. VENKATARAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accelerate drilling programme all over India to discover new oil reserves quickly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government have approved an Accelerated Exploration Programme to be implemented during 1994—97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6500 crores. Its major components are:—

(i) Exploration in the deep water areas.

(ii) National seismic programme.

(iii) Exploration in frontier areas.

(iv) Acquisition of acreages abroad.

Resources for development of Railways in Gujarat

1408. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new allocation of resources for development of Railways in Gujarat has been made apart from the allocations made in the current Railway Budget;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the people of Kutch region have offered 50 percent financial share for completion of gauge conversion work between Gandhidham and Bhuj; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have accepted the offer for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional funds to the tune of Rs. 47 crores for Phulera-Ahmedabad gauge conversion project and Rs. 1 crore for Kapadvanj-Modasa new line project have been provided in 1994-95, over and above the budget allocation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise. However, the work has been included in the Railway Budget for 1995-96 subject to clearance from the Planning Commission.

Doubling of Daund-Solapur-Wadi section

1409. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of the Daund-Solapur-Wadi section was conducted